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Chilean generals unfazed by report of CIA aid in Allende ouster

But disclosure causes furore in Washington

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One year after seizing power, Chile's military leaders have settled in for a long stay.

But they celebrate their first anniversary in office Sept. 11 amid a sudden mushrooming of evidence that the United States Central Intelligence Agency, contrary to previous denials, spent millions of dollars from 1970 to 1973 to "destabilize" the government they ousted.

One of the reasons they cited for the overthrow of President Salvador Allende Gossens was the escalating political and economic chaos in Chile that Dr. Allende seemed unable to cope with.

Now, it appears that at least part of that chaos was sponsored by the CIA.

Authorization reported

CIA director William Colby, in testimony to a House subcommittee, reportedly confirmed that his agency had been authorized to spend as much as \$8 million in an effort to make it impossible for Dr. Allende to govern.

The Colby testimony went counter to sworn testimony of senior State Department officials, and spokesman Robert Anderson reiterated Tuesday denials that the department was involved in attempts to subvert the Allende regime. But there have been no denials of CIA involvement.

Suspicions of such involvement have made the rounds over the years.

Although the Colby testimony made hardly a ripple in Chile after its disclosure Sunday, it is causing a furor in Washington.

There is a feeling that the testimony may only be the tip of the iceberg — that more disclosures will be forthcoming and that they may well implicate a variety of Nixon administration officials.

Already, there is question over Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's role in the CIA activities. As a key member of the National Security Council and the head of its "Forty Committee," he apparently played a role in approving the use of funds for the "destabilization" program in Chile.

Yet, in various statements, Dr. Kissinger has over the years been quoted as saying, in connection with Chile, that "we prefer democratic governments and attempt to exercise our influence to that end; but we also know we cannot impose our political and legal structures on others."

It is precisely this point that is put in doubt by the disclosures of CIA involvement in Chile.

Until the Colby testimony was disclosed over the weekend, the only confirmed anti-Allende activity by Washington was a United States-sponsored credit squeeze on the part of both Washington and international and hemisphere lending agencies.

That squeeze made it hard for Dr. Allende's Marxist-leaning government to obtain credit. But in a way, Washington could argue effectively that credits to Chile had dropped significantly in the last two years of the government of Eduardo Frei Montalva, which immediately preceded that of Dr. Allende, due to a feeling on the part of President Frei and the international lenders that Chile needed to expend already granted credits and begin repayments before a large new influx of credit was granted.

The Colby disclosures came in a confidential seven-page letter from Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D) of Massachusetts asking further congressional hearings on the CIA's role in the Sept. 11, 1973, military coup that toppled Dr. Allende's government.

That coup ended Dr. Allende's efforts to nudge Chile along the road to socialism and also ended Chile's long tradition of democratic government. Moreover, it was accompanied by a massive roundup of Allende supporters, escalating reports of the murder of thousands of Chileans, and imposition of a broad military dictatorship.

On the eve of the first anniversary of the military take-over, for example, Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization, alleged that widespread torture and executions were continuing in Chile.

"The death roll of victims is unprecedented in recent Latin American history," the organization

charged. Moreover, it said, "there is little indication that the situation is improving or that a return to normality is intended."

Amnesty International estimated that between 6,000 and 10,000 political prisoners were still being detained without trial in Chile. It added that they represented every sector of society from former Allende ministers to doctors, lawyers, trade unionists, and actors.

Worldwide reaction to events in Chile, as mirrored in the Amnesty International report, has been largely negative, prompting the military leaders headed by President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte to claim that a leftist public opinion campaign has been mounted against Chile.

But General Pinochet and his fellow military officers have indicated that they are worried about their image. And it is reported that the Chilean Government has hired the J. Walter Thompson agency in New York to start a public relations campaign designed to improve Chile's image.

That image may be hard to improve, however, until the military relax some of the curbs placed on Chile and Chileans in the past year — dissolution of Congress, ban on Marxist parties and the shutting down of all other political activity, the censorship of the press, and the abrogation of many civil rights.

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